

Weekly Bureau of Information for All Who Till the Soil or Are Interested in Making Homes

## AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT

All inquiries and communications addressed to The Times-Dispatch will receive prompt attention. This department will appear each Monday, and contributions or suggestions will be welcomed.

Facts for Farmers, Stock Breeders, Poultry Raisers, Orchardists, Truckers and Gardeners—Queries and Answers

### BRIEF NOTES THOUGHT OUT BY THE WAYSIDE

Dairying is a balance wheel in farming.

Dead beets—those killed by weeds and lack of attention.

Supply alfalfa land with an abundance of stable manure.

Sunlight is a natural tonic for the little pigs, and they revel in it.

The best city driver we ever knew never carried a whip on his wagon.

Don't feed a large quantity of hay to a horse that is afflicted with heaves.

Actual experience is the only way in which success can be attained in beekeeping.

An orchard neglected for one year virtually puts it back three years.

In the final summing up, the demands of the markets govern the type of hogs we must produce.

A fresh egg will absorb odors as readily as fresh milk. Mustiness or moldy growth in eggs causes the fillers will taint the egg and lower its quality.

Abuse or mistreatment will show more effect on hogs than on any other dairy breed. They have a high strung nervous temperament.

A good time to buy brood sows is when they are about six months of age. Select sows that are of uniform type, of good breeding, and buy from a reliable breeder.

The history of American farming, except in some of the older sections, is a record of prodigious waste of natural resources and soil fertility, and it is being repeated on an enormous scale on the plains of Western Canada.

Before farming as a business or profession can be considered successful in the highest and best sense, the profits arising from production and distribution of farm products must be shared by the household.

It is really a crime the way some farmers are permitting the escape into gullies and creeks of so much manure. These records show that constant cultivation depletes the fertility of the soil and the farmer who allows this valuable soil builder to escape is the one whose farm soon becomes barren. Preserve the manure.

### CARE OF THE CALF

The first year of a calf's life is the most important with respect to its growth. Unless animals are kept in good health during this period their final development will be retarded, and the chances are they never will reach the scale which their inheritance would give them.

On the best-regulated dairy farms, calves are born in the autumn and early winter, and they should receive milk in moderate quantities through much of the summer following birth. On farms where hand separators there is no difficulty in providing the sweet milk for calves, and even when the farmer is a part-time dairyman, he can easily remember that after the first few weeks milk for calves should be thoroughly sweetened and sterilized, that the most dangerous condition of the half-sour

stage. If milk is fed too fast when it is in this changing condition it is almost certain to cause indigestion. It should not be half-sour, nor sour one day and sweet the next, but always one or the other.

Clean feeding pails must be used, otherwise the germs of fermentation and diarrhea will be brought to the infant cow from the dirty drinking dish, and with young calves it is important that the temperature of the milk be fed nearly that of the body of the animal. Milk may receive milk of the temperature of the milk-holding tank.

While it is very important that heifers have free access to pasture during the summer, they should develop strong bodies, the calf need not have pasture the first summer. In fact, for calves born after the first of the year, pasture is a disadvantage. Most young calves in this country are better off chewing tender hay in the quiet and half-dark stable than fighting their way through the heat and cropping tough grass in the pasture.

Appearance Count for Much. Is the entrance to your home attractive? Things that are always noticed in the country are entrances to farmsteads. These should at least be clean, orderly and well kept. The lawn in front of the house should be kept clipped and if it contains a few shrubs and trees.

Use of Immature Corn. Any corn which has attained nearly its full height and in which ears are formed will make excellent fodder if it is cut before being severely frozen and put into a silage machine for silage. It will also make fairly good silage. Bundle corn or ensilage from immature corn will make satisfactory rough feed for sheep or stock cattle.

For the Farmer's Wife. Young green onions are excellent cooked in this way: Tie in bunches, cook ten minutes. Have ready some toasted and buttered bread in the bottom of a dish. Place the onions on this bread and pour over them a sauce made by rubbing together a tablespoonful each of butter and flour, thickening with it a half pint of milk.

Pride in the Country. We hear the term "country pride" in the city. It applies just as much to the country resident. It means the pride that causes you to keep your premises clean and orderly and presentable to the stranger or passerby. And then you yourself might get some pleasure out of a well-kept farm.

Measured by the common standard, keeping your farm tidy really adds dollars to its value and to the value of the products you have for sale. Let's clean up and stop breeding trouble on our farms.

### FACTS ABOUT HORSES

All horses, when turned out in pasture, are more prone to take their rest lying down than when confined in stable stalls, says the Inland Farmer. But even when practically free from human restraint and observation, or any likelihood of danger, the freedom take more than an hour each night in the recumbent position and that period is generally indulged in at about midnight.

A noted veterinarian says: "There are some curious facts regarding the disposition of horses in the matter of lying down. To a hard-working horse

The presence of a flock of sheep on a grain farm does not necessitate a material reduction in the area devoted to grain growing. If cut by the other hand it never fails to insure a larger yield of better grain, and it makes possible the growing of grain for a longer period of years than can be done without them, or some other kind of live stock.

Prevention Better Than Cure. The hog is a difficult animal to treat when once attacked by disease, and hence the breeder must adopt every means within his power to prevent disease from entering his herd. One can never be too careful in this matter, and the proverb, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure," is especially applicable in the management of swine.

Get the Best Prices. Proper grading is necessary in order to get the best prices from many crops. This is especially true of apples and other products that sell on appearance. A few poor apples in a lot will lower the selling price to that of the poor apples. Better sell No. 1 and No. 2 stock in well-graded packages.

Poultry and Fruit. If the hens have the run of an orchard, they will not render as good service in protecting the trees from injurious insects as they will if confined in yards around the trees. While the orchard should be under watchfulness night and day, and in other cases the conclusions were arrived at because no marks of the bedding were ever found upon their coats. I now recall an instance of a horse that stood in a stall near the entrance of a livery stable. No one ever saw that animal lying down within a period of fifteen years, and he finally died standing.

Bringing Summer Conditions of Feeding to the Stock in Winter. repose is almost as much of a necessity as good food and water, but tired as he may be, he is an animal very shy about lying down. I have known instances where stablemen declared that the horses in their charge had never been known to take rest in that manner, but always slept standing. In some of these instances the animals were constantly under human watchfulness night and day, and in other cases the conclusions were arrived at because no marks of the bedding were ever found upon their coats. I now recall an instance of a horse that stood in a stall near the entrance of a livery stable. No one ever saw that animal lying down within a period of fifteen years, and he finally died standing.

It is a theory—only a vague supposition—that a horse standing because he fears that insects or mice may be about him, and that a small rodent can cause more consternation among a tiger or a lion than a mouse in the hay at a circus will cause every elephant in the collection to hold his trunk aloft, plainly indicating that they fear the little creature may take refuge in the phosphenic orifices.

But to return to horses: It has always been said that they "sleep with one eye open," and a constant guard. An Indian shod in cotton-felt moccasins, practicing all the sly arts of his people, could not, with the wind in his hair, approach a sleeping horse without being detected. No odds how weary a horse may be, his ears are constantly turning and twisting, so that their funnels may catch the slightest unusual noises.

In purchasing a general purpose horse, which will be used when railroads, electric cars and autos are to be seen, the horse should be a good horse is safe for women, children or inexperienced men to handle.

Don't buy until you have driven, or have seen the horse driven, near enough to these objects of terror to be certain that he will pass them without trying to smash up things. Better go to some reliable dealer, tell him exactly what you want and then buy under a full guarantee, with the privilege of returning the animal at some reasonable time, if it doesn't come up to the mark.

Greater efficiency in the field is secured by matching horses according to their working character, even if they do not look alike.

Put the horses to keep a horse in even good working order on grasses alone is attempting an impossibility. Study the conformation and disposition of your horse and select his breeding and team, if possible, the kind of stallion they should be mated with to secure the best results.

Feed the Birds in Winter. Has any preparation been made to keep birds about the place this winter? Birds should be fed at times when they are scarce. The farm of a good Scandinavian custom, which might be followed here with pleasure and profit, of putting a sheaf of wheat out occasionally during the winter to feed the birds. The fact of such feeding the birds will pay for the trouble.

In this connection, the following from Major Phil B. Brown, of Baltimore County, addressed to The Times-Dispatch, will prove very interesting.

Your readers who are fond of bird lore will remember the story of two cardinals that came to my window last spring for their daily food. They were well, they continued to do so through the summer, and awakened a keen interest among a number of the visitors, several of whom came to witness the noon or evening meal. The morning meal was usually taken between 5 and 6 o'clock, and I had no occasion for a alarm to awaken me, for they were as regular as a clock, and kept up a merry chirping while partaking of this breakfast.

Finally, about the middle of September they brought their half-grown cardinals to share the luxuries, and it was an interesting sight to see the three little fellows with duffed feathers and a nervous movement of their necks and wide-open mouths impatiently waiting to be fed.

It kept the parent birds busy in filling their beaks with bread crumbs and pushing them down their hungry throats.

On one occasion a youngster while being fed must have offended the mother bird, for she flew viciously at him and pushed him off the shelf, thereby giving an illustration of parental discipline.

Another incident connected with birds came under my observation the past summer. My attention was attracted to two male cardinals that flew from their perches and fought furiously for a minute or two, almost falling to the ground, then return to their respective perch.

This was kept up for at least fifteen or twenty minutes, when one, that seemed to be the victor, flew to a different perch where sat a denigrating looking female oriole that evidently was the cause of the battle in the air between the two male birds.

This illustrates another trait, jealousy, in the nature of birds, as well as family discipline, as shown with the cardinals.

Keep a Few Sheep. The presence of a flock of sheep on a grain farm does not necessitate a material reduction in the area devoted to grain growing. If cut by the other hand it never fails to insure a larger yield of better grain, and it makes possible the growing of grain for a longer period of years than can be done without them, or some other kind of live stock.

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### SILAGE HARVESTING

Maybe you did not have a silo this year and saved no silage, but you will, or should, have one next year, and so it is well to study the whole subject in time.

It is of great importance to know at what stage corn should be cut to secure the best results, how rapidly nutrition is stored up in the corn plant as it approaches maturity, and when the maximum amount is reached.

To have the silage keep well the corn must be cut at the proper stage of maturity. If cut before it is sufficiently matured, too much acid develops. If too ripe, it does not settle properly and the air is not excluded.

Corn should not be cut until the ears are out of the milk and most of the kernels glazed and hard. In case the weather has been so hot and dry that the lower leaves have dried, the corn should be cut before the ears are quite so far advanced. Much ripener corn will keep at the bottom of the silo than at the top because of the greater pressure which excludes the air more completely.

It is, therefore, important that the ripener corn be cut first and placed in the bottom of the silo.

The corn should be cut with a corn binder, as it is much more easily handled when bound in bundles. If the silage cutter is large and the work is done with a good force of men, the silage will be cut before it has a start of half a day. If enough horses are used on the binder to keep it moving at a good pace the corn can be cut down as fast as it can be put into the silo. Using a small cutter with a large engine is dangerous unless great care is exercised in controlling the power.

If silage is to keep well it must be evenly. To this end the leaves and the heavier parts of the corn must be kept thoroughly mixed and evenly distributed in the silo. Owing to the great pressure of silage, friction with the sides of the silo causes the silage to make the silage less compact at the edge, and for this reason it should be thoroughly tramped next the side.

Every time three or four inches of cut material is added to the silo it should be tramped thoroughly around the edge, taking short steps and packing the silage as much as possible next to the sides. These precautions must be observed during filling to obtain perfect silage.

After filling, the top six inches should be wet once and the whole surface tramped every day for a week to obtain a thin, compact layer of well-set silage, which will exclude the air.

Properly prepared, corn silage is, as a rule, the most economical succulent food that can be obtained for dairy cows during the summer months. It is available. Although not a balanced ration in itself, it tends to heavy milk production and economical milk can be made by feeding corn silage and a legume hay without the use of much grain.

Dark Nests for Hens. Hens exposed to light and will dig through hay to the bottom of the nest rather than use a ready-made nest in sight.

A good style of nest is made in sections of four nests, twelve inches high and 14x14, with just room enough between the nests and the wall for the hens to enter. The top can be in one piece, hinged at the inner edge so that it can be lifted up when eggs are gathered, but a better way is to lay the top on loosely so that it can be taken off and the entire contents of all the nests dumped out at once. The nests should be fumigated with sulfolime and sprayed with kerosene at least once a month. If the entire chicken house is treated in the same way every month there will never be any trouble with lice.

Raise Hogs—Many Hogs. The price of hogs continues to climb and bacon and hams are keeping right in close touch with the advance. This is going to work a hardship on many a man who has been in the habit of enjoying these products. With the farmer, however, it should be an incentive to raise hogs not only to provide meat for his own table, but to have some for the market. There is both good living and money in it.

Neat Butter Prints. The most attractive package for butter is the pound print, which can be wrapped in a parchment paper, and the whole enclosed in a pasteboard carton. This kind of a package is convenient to handle, and the covering keeps out dust, dirt and foreign odors. Some customers, however, prefer the butter packed in their own jars or crocks. Printed should be worth 1 or 2 cents more per pound.

Those Acquainted with the affairs of this Company on the inside will testify to the fact that

The Virginia Trust Co.

makes the "Safe Executor."

No. 5.

Unlike An Individual

The Virginia Trust Co.

Can never die!

It can always be found at its place of business.

It cannot disappear or become sick or infirm or insane!

It is never away on vacations!

It does not drink, gamble or speculate!

Keep your eye on this page for three other reasons to follow.

## SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS OF THE BUILDING INSPECTOR'S OFFICE

FROM JANUARY 1, TO OCTOBER 30, 1915.

Number of permits issued for new work in October..... 51  
Number of permits issued for alterations and repairs in October..... 67  
Total number of permits issued in October..... 118  
Estimated cost of new improvements in October..... \$147,208.60  
Estimated cost of alterations and repairs in October..... 33,937.60

Total cost of work authorized in October..... \$181,236.20  
Average value of permit for new work in October..... \$2,887.59  
Average value of permit for alterations and repairs in October..... 506.52  
Average value of total permits issued in October..... 1,535.818

NEW STRUCTURES, 1915.				
	No. of Bldgs.	Amount.	Jan. 1 to Oct. 30.	
Brick dwellings.....	22	\$ 11,000.00	222	\$1,184,752.00
Frame dwellings.....	14	14,100.00	174	1,014,175.00
Brick stores.....	1	6,000.00	38	108,555.00
Brick sheds.....	4	725.00	42	22,090.00
Private garages.....	32	7,941.00	108	64,400.00
Brick stables.....	1	300.00	10	6,425.00
Apartment-houses.....	4	7,200.00	13	105,000.00
Warehouses and manufactories.....	4	7,200.00	13	93,582.00
Schools.....	1	300.00	3	80,420.00
Hospitals.....	1	2,000.00	4	184,570.00
Office buildings.....	1	4,000.00	2	4,567.00
Rest stations.....	1	5,370.00	1	5,370.00
Engine-houses.....	1	8,000.00	1	8,000.00
Churches.....	1	17,000.00	1	17,000.00
Thaters.....	1	4,000.00	8	32,000.00
Total.....	78	\$ 147,228.60	748	\$2,251,702.00

ALTERATIONS AND REPAIRS, 1915.				
	October.		Jan. 1 to Oct. 30.	
	No. of Bldgs.	Amount.	No. of Bldgs.	Amount.
Brick dwellings	10	\$ 7,728 00	135	\$ 75,414 00
Frame dwellings	32	7,721 00	353	80,409 00
Warehouses and manufactories	3	1,000 00	50	55,000 00
Brick stores	11	6,211 00	95	73,388 00
Frame sheds	1	725 00	18	4,305 00
Schools	1	400 00	13	89,571 00
Private stables	1	800 00	11	4,540 00
Private garages	3	800 00	20	6,725 00
Office buildings	1	8,000 00	6	6,390 00
Theaters	1	4,000 00	2	500 00
Churches	1	400 00	8	3,540 00
Hospitals	1	2,000 00	4	17,650 00
Public garages	1	500 00	1	500 00
Museums	1	5,370 00	1	500 00
Halls	1	7,000 00	3	7,500 00
Exhibition buildings	1	7,000 00	1	500 00

Total number of examinations and reports..... 74  
Amount of new work from Jan. 1 to Oct. 30, 1915, inclusive..... \$2,251,702.00  
Amount of repair work from January 1 to October 30, 1915, inclusive..... 432,612.00

Total amount of work authorized from January 1 to October 30, 1915..... \$2,684,314.00  
Increase in new work in October, 1915, as compared with October, 1914, amounts to \$4,000.00. Increase in alteration and repair work in October, 1915, as compared with October, 1914, amounts to \$1,000.00, making a total increase of all work authorized in October, 1915, as compared with October, 1914, of \$5,000.00.

### WEEKLY COTTON REVIEW

NEW ORLEANS, October 31.—Liquidation of longs was an important factor in last week's cotton market, but toward the end the market responded readily to buying which led to the bullish claims that the reaction had run its course. The net change was a decline of 22 to 25 points. At the lowest prices were 71 to 76 points under last week's close.

Small crop talk, stimulated by bullish spinning returns, was a steady influence, but the small export movement was commented upon unfavor